



Sheffield TIMES



Community Newsletter for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA, SECOND GENERATION, Special Supplement, April 2004

In This Issue

Town Meeting
Warrant ... Pages 1-3
Candidate
Profiles Pages 4-6
How to Contribute
& Coupon Page 7
Rubber Ducky Race
Form Back Page

A COMMUNITY SERVICE FROM THE *SHEFFIELD TIMES*

Each year we publish this special issue to present to the town's voters the complete text of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant that will be the subject of the Annual Town Meeting, May 3 at 7pm at Mt. Everett Regional High School. All Sheffield residents are welcome at the meeting, but only registered voters can vote. A brief analysis of the Warrant can be found on page 3.

The *Sheffield Times* also presents "Candidates-at-a-Glance" starting on page 4, profiling all candidates running for town office in the Town Election that will be held May 10, 9am to 7pm at the Town Hall.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Town of Sheffield
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Berkshire, ss

To the Constables of the Town of Sheffield in said County of Berkshire, *Greeting.*

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are hereby directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town affairs, to meet in the auditorium of the Mt. Everett Regional High School on Berkshire School Road in Sheffield on **Monday, May 3, 2004 at 7:00 P.M.** for the following purposes:

ARTICLE 1: To hear and act upon the Annual Reports of the Town Officers and Committees of the Town, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 2: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, and/or transfer from available funds, such sums of money as listed below, and as may be amended, necessary to defray the expenses of the town for Fiscal Year 2005, or take any other action relative thereto.

MODERATOR	\$150
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE	\$129,073
BOARD OF ASSESSORS	\$70,026
TREASURER/COLLECTOR	\$112,426
TOWN CLERK	\$46,625
ELECTIONS & REGISTRATION	\$17,865
CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$5,425
PLANNING BOARD	\$3,350
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT COMM.	\$1,000
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS	\$2,000
TOWN BUILDINGS AND PROPERTIES..	\$69,250
TOWN REPORT	\$3,100
LEGAL SERVICES	\$10,400
DISPATCH SERVICES	\$21,650
POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$284,150
FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$30,664
INSPECTIONAL SERVICES	\$34,162
FIRE HYDRANTS	\$7,942
DOG OFFICER	\$5,700
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT	\$433,850
STREETLIGHTS	\$7,500
BOARD OF HEALTH	\$16,334
VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION	\$2,889
COUNCIL ON AGING	\$40,970
VETERANS BENEFITS	\$1,000

Continued on page 2



Town Meeting WARRANT

Continued from page 1

LIBRARY	\$109,934
HISTORICAL COMMISSION	\$100
MEMORIAL DAY	\$600
AMERICAN LEGION	\$500
CARE OF SOLDIERS' GRAVES	\$1,188
INTEREST ON LOANS	\$1
BERKSHIRE COUNTY RETIREMENT	\$117,288
WORKER'S COMPENSATION	\$7,500
UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND ..	\$1
GROUP HEALTH (32B) INSURANCE	\$194,400
EMPLOYER MEDICARE	\$11,250
FINANCIAL AUDIT	\$11,000
INSURANCE & BONDING	\$52,000

ARTICLE 3: To see if the town will vote to fix the compensation of the following elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2004, as required by Chapter 41, Section 108 of the General Laws: Moderator \$150; Selectman, Chairman \$2,100; Selectmen, two members at \$1,800 each, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, a sum of money for the disposal and management of solid waste, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health to employ any of its members, including members who also serve on the Board of Selectmen, as Title 5 Witnesses for Septic Systems Evaluation Tests and Inspections at a rate of \$35.00 per inspection, and/or Sanitation (Title 5) Inspector at an annual salary of \$500 for Fiscal Year 2005, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from Overlay Surplus, and/or transfer from available funds, \$50,000 to provide for extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures under the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 6 of the General Laws, known as the Reserve Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the town will vote to authorize the Treasurer/Collector to sell, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, any parcel or parcels of real estate which have been or may be acquired through the foreclosure of tax title, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$34,053 to pay principal and interest on the bonded indebtedness authorized by Town Meeting vote of January 30, 1995, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$11,138 to purchase and/or repair various equipment for the Fire Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$750 to the Emergency Response Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$27,674 to pay for vocational education in Fiscal Year 2005, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$90,000 to be used for the purchase of a new 2 axle Dump Truck for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$35,000 to purchase a new one ton truck for the Highway Department and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to trade-in or sell the town's 1995 one ton truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$8,500 to purchase new computer hardware and software for the Police Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds \$750 to pay for the installation and networking of computers at the Bushnell-Sage Library, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 41C of the General Laws, by accepting additional language in Section 51 of the Chapter 184 of the Acts of 2002, allowing expansion of eligibility for senior citizen property tax exemptions as follows, or take any other action relative thereto:

1. Decrease the eligible age from 70 years to 65 years.
2. Increase the exemption amount by 50% to \$750.00.
3. Increase the income limits to \$20,000 for singles and \$30,000 for married seniors.
4. Increase the Whole Estate limits to \$40,000 for singles and \$55,000 for married seniors.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the town will vote to amend Article 4.10 of the Town of Sheffield Zoning By-Laws as follows: Replace the 3rd sentence in the paragraph which reads: "In addition, pre-existing non-conforming single or two family structures may be extended or altered provided that said extension does not change, expand or increase the non-

conforming nature of such structure." with the following: "In addition, the building inspector shall be authorized to issue building permits to pre-existing non-conforming single or two family structures, or pre-existing non-conforming lots with existing single or two family structures, that may be extended or altered provided that said extension or alteration does not change, expand or increase the non-conforming nature of such structure.", or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, \$800 to pay the stipend for Sheffield's committee members of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. chapter 64G, Section 3A authorizing the Town to impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a hotel, lodging house or motel located within the Town of Sheffield, by any operator at a rate equal to four percent (4%) of the total amount of rent for each such occupancy, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2005 and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$4,259,405 to pay the town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to approve the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2005 and vote to raise and appropriate and/or transfer from available funds, \$311,924 to pay the town's assessed share of that budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

TOWN MEETING TO VOTE ON PROPOSED \$6.9 MILLION BUDGET ON MAY 3

The warrant for the May 3 Town Meeting proposes total expenditures of approximately \$6.9 million for the town's fiscal year 2005 (which starts on July 1, 2004). This is an increase of about 4.8% over this year's budgeted expenditures.

Of the total, about two-thirds represents Sheffield's share of the school district's proposed total budget of almost \$4.571 million, an increase of about 3.6%. As proposed, Sheffield's share of the district's operating budget will increase by about 4.2% or \$171,595. The Finance Committee has approved all but about \$12,000 of the operating budget increase.

The proposed town operating budget is approximately \$1.863 million, which represents an increase of about 8.2%. About three quarters of the increase is accounted for by four big items:

- The Highway Dept. budget is up 5.9% for a total of \$433,850, due mainly to increases in fuel and materials combined with reductions in state road maintenance funding
- The Police Dept. budget is up 10.7% for a total of \$284,150 primarily as a result of increases in personnel costs.
- Group Health Insurance for employees is up a whopping 21.5% for a total of \$194,400.
- Berkshire County Retirement up 17.2% for a total of \$117,288.

The town's proposed capital budget includes a total of \$125,000 to purchase two new trucks for the Highway.

You are also directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield, qualified to vote in Town elections, to meet in the Town Hall on Depot Street in Sheffield on Monday, May 10, 2004 at 9:00 AM then and there to bring in their votes for the election of the following Town Officers:

One Moderator for one year
One Selectman for three years
One Library Trustee for three years
Two Planning Board members for three years

All of said officers to be voted for on the official ballots furnished at the polls. The polls will be opened at 9:00 AM and closed at 7:00 PM.

You are directed to serve this Warrant by posting an attested copy in seven public places in the Town, not less than seven days before the date of said meeting.

Hereof Fail Not, and make return of this Warrant to the Town Clerk, with your doings thereon, at or before the time of said meeting.

Given under our hands and the Seal of the Town of Sheffield this fifteenth day of April in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Four.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

David D. Macy Richard J. Kirchner Janet G. Stanton

In obedience to the within Warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Sheffield qualified to vote in Town or State Elections and Primaries by posting seven attested copies of said warrant in seven public places at least seven days prior to said election.

SELECTMEN TO ASK TOWN MEETING TO APPROVE MOTEL TAX FOR THE SECOND TIME IN TWO YEARS

Eager to broaden the town's limited revenue sources to help address what appear to be inexorable increases in costs, the Board of Selectmen has included a provision in the warrant that, if approved by a majority of the voters at the Town Meeting, would impose a 4% tax on stays in bed and breakfasts, motels, hotels and lodging houses. The same proposal was put to the voters at the 2002 annual Town Meeting but failed to pass by nine votes.

SELECTMEN DECIDE NOT TO CALL FOR A PROPOSITION 2½ OVERRIDE

Under the state law known as Proposition 2 ½, Sheffield is subject to the so-called "levy limit" which prevents it from increasing real and personal property taxes by an amount more than 2 ½ of the prior year's levy limit plus additional tax revenue expected to be raised on new construction. These taxes represent the revenues of "last resort" and typically amount to over 80% of total revenues. As a consequence of severe cost increases and cuts in state aid, the town is now perilously close to the levy limit. If it needs to raise property taxes above the limit, the Selectmen would have to ask the voters to approve what is called a Proposition 2 ½ "override."

At an April 12 meeting with the Finance Committee, the Board of Selectmen considered whether to call for an override vote. They decided not to do so at this time. But, unless there is a marked improvement in Sheffield's finances, there is a real possibility that they will have to revisit the issue sometime soon.

—Peter Rowntree

candidates AT-A-GLANCE

Board of Selectmen

Term: Three years

Candidates: Two -- Richard Campeglio and
David Macy

Seats open: One



Richard Campeglio

Richard (Rick) Campeglio was born in Great Barrington in 1965 and graduated from the North Canaan public schools in Connecticut. He has lived in Sheffield for 16 years, 14 of those at his current Salisbury Rd. address, which he shares with Melissa Bassett, his girlfriend, and two Brittany spaniels. Rick works for the Sheffield Highway Department and as an independent landscaper.

If elected, Rick would like to work toward finishing the town center and Berkshire School Rd. projects, upgrading or replacing some of the Highway Department's equipment and finding tenants for the Sheffield Industrial Park off Route 7. He would also like to see the Maple Ave. bridge redesigned so it would be safer for pedestrians and bicycles to cross.

Also, Campeglio would like to make sure that townspeople know what is going on in their local government and that the lines of communication are kept open for suggestions and/or complaints. "I'll try my best to work with the people," he says.

This Special Supplement has been mailed to all addresses in Town by the Sheffield Association - please excuse duplications.

CANDIDATE PROFILES

The *Sheffield Times* provides brief profiles of each of the candidates for elected office in the May 10, 2004 town elections.

Profiles are in alphabetical order by board or office. Within any board or office candidates are listed alphabetically. All positions are included regardless of whether or not there is a contest.



David Macy

David (Dave) Macy is the incumbent. He has served on the Board since 1997. He told the *Times*: "I started my Town service in 1977 when I joined the Fire Department. The reason I joined is that I felt compelled to help people in need. I was also raised to believe that there are no free rides and you need to pay back for the freedom we enjoy.

After serving for 20 years, I retired and was appointed to the Zoning Study Committee, where I served as chairman. When the Zoning By-Law was passed, I ran for a seat on the Planning Board. After a successful campaign I was voted chairman of the Board and served as such until I decided to run for a vacant seat on the Board of Selectmen. I was appointed to fill the temporary seat until the next election. At that time I was elected to a three-year term.

"I feel I have the knowledge of town operations and town government to do an excellent job as a Selectman and feel there are many projects I want to see completed in my next term, and I will do this with the support of the voters of the Town of Sheffield."

TOWN ELECTIONS - MONDAY, MAY 10, 2004
VOTE 9AM-7PM IN THE CARLTON FRENCH MEETING ROOM AT TOWN HALL

Library Trustee

Term: Three years

Candidates: One -- Susan Young

Seats open: One



Susan Young

Susan Young is running for re-election as Library Trustee. She told us: "The Bushnell-Sage Library is an exciting, busy, all-inclusive resource for the people of Sheffield. I have been most fortunate to be a part of the library's growth. In the 10 years since I have been a trustee, Sheffield has supported the library in wondrous ways—just look at our new building!"

"I have a BA from Vassar and a Masters of Information Science from SUNY Albany. My husband, Tom, and I have lived in Sheffield since 1968. Our sons attended Center School. To be a trustee of the library at this time is an opportunity to help make it the cultural centerpiece of Sheffield. The Sheffield Historical Society and the Sheffield Art League have become an integral part of life at the library. With the most generous support of the Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library, community outreach is now a priority with activities for seniors as well as story hours for children. There have been programs on social issues and political philosophies, numerous authors' readings, an all-day garden symposium, and a grand celebration of our local authors at a book signing party last November.

"During this period, the trustees have pushed to upgrade our technology to take advantage of the Central and Western Massachusetts Library System. Under the leadership of Nancy Hahn, the Bushnell-Sage has been instrumental in gathering western Massachusetts librarians together to discuss the implications of the Patriot Act on libraries and freedom of speech. In the face of state budget cuts, we have hosted dinner so our neighboring librarians and library trustees could meet one another to find ways to share resources and cooperate with each other.

“This elective office has been, and continues to be, a joy for me.”

Planning Board

Terin: Three years

Candidates: Two—Bart Elsbach and Fred Gordon

Seats open: Two



Bart Elsbach

Bart Elsbach has been a member of the Sheffield community since 1966, living here full time since the mid 1980s. He lives on Boardman Street with his wife and two daughters.

Bart is an artist who has taught in area schools and has long been active in Sheffield civic life and local organizations including Berkshire Grown, the Sheffield Land Trust, the Railroad Street Youth Project, Elm Watch, the Sheffield Historical Society, and Housatonic River Restoration. He previously ran for town selectman.

Bart is eager to work on the Planning Board at this important time when Sheffield's long-term strategy is being framed through the Master Plan. He emphasizes the importance of balancing the various economic interests of the town, particularly those that rely on development and those that rely on protection of resources.

Planning Board Candidates Continued on page 6

The regular May/June Issue of the *Sheffield Times* will be out May 6 or 7. Look for it at these public locations:

Ashley Falls Post Office
Dewey Hall/Senior Center
Gulotta Mobil Station
Farmers' Market
PJs Country Convenience Store
Sheffield Library
Sheffield Marketplace
Sheffield Transfer Station
Silk's Variety
Town Hall
&
Guidos (Gt. Barrington)

candidates AT-A-GLANCE

Planning Board Continued from page 5

Planning Board:



Frederick Gordon

Frederick Gordon is the incumbent and has served on the Planning Board for six years. He told the *Times*: "I am a candidate for a third term on the Planning Board, where we review Form As for land subdivisions, hold special permit hearings on applications for cell towers, excavations and other matters and work with other town agencies on our zoning regulations. Our Chairman, Wray Gunn, Sr., is retiring from the Board. He has led the way. We have participated in the Master Planning proposals and have been extensively involved with signage, land usage, and heritage preservation under his guidance. He will be missed. We all have many concerns in this starting decade of the 21st century. We are fortunate to enjoy a high quality of civic life here in Sheffield. I believe that decisions taken today by the Planning Board will shape and improve our town tomorrow."

Town Moderator:

Term: One year
Candidates: One -- Bruce Person
Seats open: One



Bruce Person

Bruce Person has served as Sheffield's Town Moderator for the last 14 years. Born in Riverton, Connecticut, he graduated from the University of Connecticut at Storrs in 1965 and Tufts University School of Dental Medicine in 1969. He came to Sheffield in 1971 after serving in the Air Force for two years. He established his dental practice in Great Barrington and has been in the same office for the past 33 years. He and his wife, Barbara, have two adult sons. Bruce is a former chairman of the Southern Berkshire Regional School District Committee. He is also very involved with the Great Barrington Rotary Club and is chairman of the club's Scholarship Assistance Fund.

**SAVE THE
DATES!**
July 3rd
Sheffield River Day
September 10-12 & 17-19
Sheffield in Celebration

September 11, Sheffield Fair
September 18, Ashley Falls Fair
on the Green

VENDORS WANTED
call 229-8789

Sheffield TIMES

Community Newsletter for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA.

Executive Editors: Kathy Orlando & Andrea Scott;
Layout: Kathy Orlando; **Distribution:** Barbara Kelly; **Staff:**
Sandy & Dale Alden, Liz Chaffee, Rae Eastman, Fred Gordon,
Gillian Hettinger, Art Kaufman, Jim Miller, Peter & Ellen
Rowntree, Judy Schumer, Ann Shanks, Barbara West, John
Wightman, June Wolfe

Published by:
The Sheffield Association
P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

HOW TO SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

Submit articles, news items, photos or illustrations

Spotted any interesting wildlife? Have a good idea for a story? Taken a great picture of an interesting Sheffield scene? Let us know!

Send suggestions and submissions to the P.O. box or e-mail address below. News briefs can be one or two sentences, short articles between 150 and 450 words. Run suggestions for feature stories by the editors first.

Tell us about your events

Calendar items should be directed to the attention of the Calendar Editor and include a contact name and number in case there are questions.

Advertise in the *Sheffield Times*

The *Sheffield Times* accept ads at its discretion:

- From Sheffield businesses & residents: want ads; items for sale; services offered (landscaping, carpentry, electrical, forestry, typing, babysitting, sewing, etc.); business ads, etc.
- From outside of Sheffield: services, etc., that benefit Sheffield residents.
- No editorial or political ads.

Sixth-page to half-page ads are available. Please include font names if sent in paper format and include the font itself if sending digitally. We can accept the following digital formats: JPEG, EPS, PDF, Pagemaker, Word.

Contact Tara White at 229-7754 or tarabw@vgernet.net for rates or more information.

Support our advertisers

Most of our advertisers are local businesses. Tell them you read about them in the *Sheffield Times*!

Make a donation

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free at distribution sites throughout Sheffield and Ashley Falls. It's only partly supported by advertising. When you make a donation, you help make future issues possible and will get *Sheffield Times* in the mail. See the form below.

Sheffield Times
P.O. Box 1339
Sheffield, MA 01257
E-mail: sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

JULY/AUGUST ISSUE:
DEADLINE: JUNE 11

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE SHEFFIELD TIMES!

I want to support the *Sheffield Times*! Enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of _____, made payable to the
Sheffield Association Fund
P.O. Box 1339
Sheffield, MA 01257

Name _____
(as you want it to appear in acknowledgments)

Address _____
(where you want the *Sheffield Times* sent)

I'd like my contribution to remain anonymous. I'd like to get more involved with the *Sheffield Times*.

I am particularly interested in or have experience with _____

Please don't mail me the *Sheffield Times*, I pick it up at _____, one of the public distribution locations.

The *Sheffield Times* is provided free of charge at public distribution sites throughout Sheffield. Everyone who makes a donation will receive a copy by mail, so please note on this form if you do not want it sent to you and we won't add to your recycling pile!

Donations are tax-deductible through a partnership with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

**RENT A RACING DUCK!
REGISTER FOR THE JULY 3 RUBBER DUCKY RACE!**

**Participate in Sheffield's first-ever Rubber Ducky Race
at the Old Covered Bridge off Rt. 7
Saturday, July 3, 2004, at 11:30am!**

You can rent a single duck for \$2, three for \$5, eight for \$10, or 20 for \$25. The more you rent, the better your chances of winning! The first prize is \$100, the second \$50 and the third \$25. Other prizes (not cash) may be awarded for other categories, like the slowest or most meandering duck!

Each duck will be numbered. The list of entrants and the numbers of their ducks will be posted at the Old Covered Bridge.

This exciting event is only one of the featured attractions of the Sheffield River Day Celebration at the Old Covered Bridge. These include a picnic, a family fun canoe and kayak race, children's activities and music. Everyone is welcome! Proceeds from all the events after expenses will be used to enhance recreational uses of the river. See the May issue of the *Sheffield Times* for details. For more information email pdtree@aol.com.

SHEFFIELD RIVER DAY RUBBER DUCKY RACE ENTRY FORM

I/we want to rent: duckies for \$2 each duckies for \$10 for each group of 8
 duckies for \$5 for each group of three duckies for \$25 for each group of 20

Please PRINT clearly:

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
Town or city _____ State _____ Zip _____

Return entry form with cash or check (made out to "Sheffield River Day Fund") in a sealed envelope **no later than June 30, 2004**, to the main desk at the Sheffield Library or by mail to the Sheffield River Day Fund, PO Box 940, Sheffield, MA 01257. A limited number of duckies may be available the day of the race. You need not be present to win. The winners will be notified at or following the event. The decision of the judges will be final. If the race is cancelled because of bad weather or other reasons beyond the organizers' control, prizewinners will be determined by a drawing.

This Special Supplement has been mailed to all addresses in Town by the Sheffield Association - please excuse duplications.

**Sheffield
TIMES**

Community Newsletter for
Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA
P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257
sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com

POSTAL PATRON